

CHATTANOOGA NEWS

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Puck's long-time motto was: "What fools these mortals be." But they seem wiser now.

Maybe the weather man is also trying to remind you about getting in that winter coal.

It is in more or less of a detached fashion, but one at a time the states are adjourning politics.

Under McAdoo's recent order, no minor railroad employee is justified in assuming that he owns the road.

New York is getting ready to behave itself. The big town is beginning to recruit women for its police force.

Clothes come high in Vienna.—Headline. That's nothing much. They are nearly up to the knees in this country.

That Uncle Sam intends to wage a clean campaign against Germany is indicated by his plan to establish laundries at the camps.

A hungry man is said to be an angry man. This probably accounts for the disturbance in Japan over the scarcity and high price of rice.

German women in charge of machine guns are evidently trying to live up to Kipling's characterization of the female of the species.

Are we to have a duplication of the civil war situation? A shortage of salt would revive memories of '61-'65 among the old timers.

Germany wants Belgium and the Russian provinces to be independent, but has such a queer idea of what independence is and means.

There is some compensation for the territory surrendered by the Hun in France. Once in a while a fishing schooner is taken unawares.

The Germans are coming to realize that the famous Hindenburg line cannot be depended on to protect them against the aggressive allies.

It is still a long way off, but it is almost certain that Marshal Hindenburg is not making any Thanksgiving dinner dates for Paris or London.

An objection has been raised to a heavy war profits tax on the ground that it will injuriously affect poets and discourage the production of poetry.

Discussion of a work-or-fight provision for the new draft law appears to be time wasted. Hasn't Gen. Crowder already devised one which hits the mark?

"Eat canned fish," advises the Johnson City Staff. Which is all well enough in a way, but why not eat 'em fresh, right off the reel, so to speak?

The order suspending work on the Muscle Shoals dam was another one of those alarm signals indicating the approaching acuteness in the labor situation.

Perhaps German "attachment" to Russia may be explained on the theory that it was desirable even so long in advance to have safe lines of retreat open.

Henry Ford is ready to utilize water power at various places over the country so soon as it is developed. But it is not known whether Col. Harvey will give his consent.

If we correctly understand Spain's decision, it practically works out the U-boats' activities result in the depletion of the German merchant marine by so much.

The colonel opines that he may not properly take sides in the republican gubernatorial contest in New York, but he makes "the welkin" ring for Becker for lieutenant-governor!

Thomas E. Kilby, Alabama's new governor-to-be, is at least no hypocrite. He intimates that while he may possibly forgive some recent blows below the belt, he will not forget them so readily.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is apparently taking his illness seriously. It is now rumored that announcement of his death and the proclamation of a republic may be expected most any old time.

The Jacksonville Times-Union doesn't understand why war is not declared on Turkey. Which recalls that there have been numerous incidents during the war which we did not understand. But since it is generally agreed that the war is to be fought out on the western front, we can't see that a declaration of war on Turkey would make much difference.

SUFFRAGE DISTRACTIONS.

One of the cleverest treatments of the contention that consideration of the suffrage question will paralyze America's efforts to win the war is from the Springfield Republican. The occasion was that of the open letter of the women voters' anti-suffrage party of New York to the president, wherein the latter was in effect charged with distracting the people's attention from the prosecution of the war, since he is just now the most insistent proponent of suffrage. These anti (aunties) declare that "there could be at this time no legislative act more destructive to united single-minded prosecution of the war" than the submission of the amendment. Dealing with their assertion that the passage of the amendment by congress would precipitate such an intense ratification campaign as to render legislatures oblivious to all other questions, the Republican says:

"This view that the suffrage issue menaces the nation's will to war by promoting a struggle in the legislatures of the states over ratification of the amendment is delicious nonsense of course. The federal prohibition amendment was fought out by the Massachusetts legislature last winter without the least observable injury to the commonwealth's whole-hearted patriotic support of the war and in several other states the prohibition amendment has similarly engaged attention without affecting harmfully the war program of the nation. The federal suffrage amendment could also be considered by the legislatures of the land and Marshal Foch would never know what was going on if he judged America simply by the flow of soldiers and munitions to the shores of France."

Every week or so there has been a ratification of the prohibition amendment by the legislature of some state or other. Yet we have been unable to perceive any halt in the prosecution of the war. Instead of giving aid and comfort to the Kaiser, it is more likely that the closing down of breweries has operated to curtail subscriptions to his war chest. At any rate the volume of recruits and munitions going forward to Foch's assistance has swelled in a constantly increasing ratio. Further along the Republican remarks:

"The state legislatures would be no more distracted from their regular business by a federal suffrage amendment than they formerly were by the horde of politicians that fell upon them in the sections of United States senators. That duty has been taken away from them and now they have less to do. It is a droll idea that our legislatures would be incapable of public business if the issue of national woman suffrage were submitted to them by congress in accordance with the method fixed by the constitution of the United States. If it were true that they would be, then a curious blunder was made by the fathers of the republic in having the legislatures consulted about constitutional amendments under any conditions whatever."

This is well and fittingly said. The people cannot and should not entirely abandon the ordinary processes of their government because and while a war is going on—much less so in a war for democracy. They ought, if possible, give more careful attention than at any other time, for the reason that the theories of democracy are put to their severest test in war time. It is often the case that abuses become rooted during war periods, for if some profiteering interests and neurotic hysterics could have their way, it would be made a criminal offense to breathe in any other but the regulation method while war was in progress.

The government belongs to the people and they are not traitors and obstructionists because they proceed, even in war time, with the consideration of such changes as seem to them wise and expedient. As was recently insisted by Austin Peay in this state, the people are recreant when they do not give careful attention to the processes of their government. A democracy suggests the participation of all of the people all of the time.

ABOUT AS EXPECTED.

Several months ago The News, in contemplating the hair-splitting contentions and delays induced by the capitalist interests, in the consideration of water power legislation, suggested that if some affirmative action was not taken, the government might be forced to intervene and undertake this great work of development on its own account. It now seems as if the prediction is about to be fulfilled. Congressman Sims has introduced a bill looking to that end.

That everything possible is not being done to make available the country's great unused resource in its streams seems like a reflection on our national intelligence. But the debate has proceeded without appreciable progress for a decade. It is conceivable, however, that authorizing the government to inaugurate the work would be a much simpler matter since less care would be required to safeguard the interests of the people. The government has—or should have—no other interests to serve than those of the people.

California is beginning to come into prominence as a cotton-growing state. This may, perhaps, be regarded as a sign that the approaching prohibition avalanche makes wine growing a hazardous enterprise.

An exchange suggests as an aid to the campaign to raise more sheep that more mongrel dogs be converted into sausage. It is a question of taste, of course, but we should prefer to have them used for fertilizer.

One thing which may help to reconcile the country to the fate of one W. D. Haywood is a more or less general impression that he didn't get all that was coming to him in another trial which occurred several years ago.

Perhaps the German U-boat commander selected a New York saloon for a rendezvous in the hope that he might capture a schooner.

Mr. Peterson's audits produce revenue right along.

IN WEST VIRGINIA.

An interesting political situation is shown in the West Virginia senatorial contest. The sitting member, Senator Goff, is an old man and is not running for re-election. The democratic candidate is Clarence Watson and the republican candidate is Davis Elkins. The opposing candidates are now both serving in the army. Service in the senate would not be new to either of them. Watson has previously served a term and so has Elkins. Moreover, Elkins is a son and grandson of senators. His father was Stephen B. Elkins, long a senator and republican leader in West Virginia, and his grandfather was Henry Gassaway Davis, senator in the eighties and democratic nominee for vice-president in 1904.

West Virginia, for many years after the civil war, was regarded as a safe democratic state, but swung over to the republicans in the last decade of the last century. It continued steadfastly republican for some twenty years, but again, for the past eight or ten years, has been considered good fighting ground for both parties.

At present West Virginia may be considered "on the fence," the important offices being fairly well divided between the two parties.

IMPRISON THE MEN, TOO.

It would seem, from statements made, that the soldiers who are afflicted with the so-called social diseases are under surveillance and required to take regular treatments and are not permitted to leave camp, but it is by no means sure that some of them don't get into the city frequently. Public opinion has been aroused to the necessity of a strict quarantine on the women who are thus diseased, and rigorous measures have been adopted toward these unfortunate. But there are two sides to the question. Certainly the man in the case is usually the more guilty party of the two. A man thus diseased while at large is more dangerous than the female of the species. His punishment should be just as severe. He should be made to know that his lewd conduct will visit on him confinement and restraint. With both sexes treated alike in this matter we shall sooner conquer the spread of this infection. Not only will the soldiers going abroad to fight our battles be kept in prime physical condition, but our communities near camps will maintain their moral and sanitary status as before the war. We suggest to the officers the justice and desirability of imprisoning men who are in such condition, as well as women.

RABBIT GROWING.

An interesting item was that in a New York newspaper a few days ago that orders from England had been placed in Australia for 20,000,000 rabbits. These orders are not for canned rabbits, which are used extensively for feeding the army, but for real live rabbits for propagation purposes, to be added to England's livestock resources. The rabbit industry is one of the war's developments. What was formerly an almost insufferable pest is being turned into a food resource of no inconsiderable importance. The rabbit is very prolific, grows almost like weeds and thrives everywhere. In order to avail ourselves of its contribution to our supply and variety of eatables, it is only necessary to take a little pains to confine his activities so that he will not do any damage while he is growing.

It may be said that England will enjoy no exclusiveness in taking up the cultivation of rabbits. Rabbit clubs have been formed in several sections of this country and others are being organized. These have for their purpose the production of rabbits on a commercial scale. Canneries are likewise being established to put them up.

A feature which favors the growing of rabbits is that it will require a minimum of manpower, a consideration which is now all important and will probably remain so for a good many years.

The republican party in Tennessee now has for its chairman of the executive committee Hal S. Clements, of Knoxville. He has been more identified with the interests of John C. Houk than those of any other leader, and during the old wet and dry fights was sometimes called a Patterson republican, though he denied the allegation. Houk during that period was an anti-Hooper republican, and with Senator Davis in the general assembly stood off to themselves and made all sorts of dickers with the regulars. There has been a startling change in the democratic party during the period from 1910 to 1918, and it looks as if the republican cohorts have undergone just about as complete a metamorphosis. But Clements now will be claimed not only by his former associates, but also by the Sanders-Hooper contingent, as he recently managed the campaign of J. Will Taylor for congress against Dick Austin. John Houk has been pronounced dead politically a number of times, but seems to come back. After spending a "spell" with the "progressives" he is again an out-and-out republican and has been renominated for state senator in the Sixth district, having mounted the Taylor bandwagon.

Judge Williams on Fee System.

Editor The News:
On Sept. 1, 1918, there will be one of the first real reforms that Tennessee has had from a taxpayers' standpoint. Your paper did much to bring this about, with the press of the state, in educating the people to demand the same.

As you remember, in the county court I began waging the war on the fee system in Tennessee in 1911, and, with your help, and others all over the state, public sentiment was so formed that the legislature in 1917 passed the anti-fee bill. Now it is up to us who secured this reform to see that this law is carried out and not made unpopular by its non-enforcement. The law requires that each officer must devote his time to the office and not do as it was done when under fees—leave it to clerks.

We must also see that a large num-

WE SHAN'T MIND THE OPERATION, BUT THEY MIGHT GIVE US AN ANAESTHETIC WHILE THEY'RE PLANNING IT



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ber of clerks are not employed so as to take up the revenue of the office.

In Knox county the schools next year will receive \$5,500 that was paid to the trustee of the county under the old system, and it will be that much in, or more, the other four larger counties. This law should be given a fair trial, and the friends of the same should watch it.

Another reform we should have is a trial judge with power to sentence in petty larceny and other small cases to the workhouse. In place of binding to court and letting the prisoner lay in jail three months and going to all of the court expenses and when the case is called the party arrested submits and is given thirty to ninety days in the workhouse, with all of the expense to the county, when the trial judge, if he had the power, the case could be disposed of the day of the arrest, and thousands of dollars would be saved in jail cost and court cost.

As you remember, in 1910, in the county court I introduced a resolution that was passed to advertise for bids on the daily balances of the trustee's office. The first year this turned into the county treasury the sum of \$5,500. We have a revenue or pick-up each year. Since then the city of Knoxville, the state of Tennessee and the United States government have been receiving interest on balances. If we should watch this law and see that it is carried out. While the boys are on the firing line to make the world safe for democracy, we at home must be on watch, ready to go and have a revenue or pick-up for the boys to return.

ROBT. P. WILLIAMS.
Knoxville, Tenn., Aug. 21, 1918.

Senator Gassneuve Mistaken.

Editor The News:
In your issue of Aug. 20 appears the following:

"PRESIDENT WILSON GIVES LIE TO DARWIN'S THEORY."
"Lyons, France, Aug. 20.—In an address before the general council of the Rhone, Senator Gassneuve said:

"President Wilson and North America give the lie to Darwin's theory. America brings disaster to the world, the German brute beast. This is a milestone in the evolution of humanity down the ages."
But I beg to say that the well-meaning senator is absolutely mistaken, for, instead of "giving the lie to Darwin's theory," it is only another proof of its truth. America will "overthrow the German brute beast." There is no doubt of that. I should prefer the shorter word and say that America will destroy the German brute beast, but we can and will do the only better. The reason for exercising our strength in this case is found in the fact of the existence of this beast, which, if not destroyed, would despoil back a thousand years.

Our great president tried everything else to no avail, and then, realizing the true nature of the beast he had to deal with, he said, "We should use force without limit." And all the world may thank God that America possessed that force. We will destroy the "German brute beast," because in the united strength of America we are stronger than this mad Hun of central Europe. And that will prove that the "principles of right which actuate us and our allies are stronger in God's universe than the principles of evil which actuate the Hohenzollerns and Hapsburgs, and the 'stronger' will destroy the feeble." Because we are willing to back up our principles with "force, and force without limit." The "Yanks" will get the Huns, and all the peoples of the world except the Huns know that right is a part of the strength of these same "Yanks," but it is still the "stronger that will destroy the feeble."

A. J. SHOWALTER.
Aug. 21, 1918.

The Passing of Puck.

(N. Y. World.)
The passing of the comic weekly Puck is a matter of interest reminiscent to the generation before this one. The paper was known as a publication of genuine literary light and substance and of no uncertain influence in politics. For a decade at least it was so conducted that it still remains the best venture of recent in American humorous journalism. Perhaps few persons remember that Puck was started in St. Louis and in the German language. Its shift to New

York and into English came in 1877. Sidney Rosenfeld, afterward distinguished as playwright and librettist, led the list of its editors here. After him came H. C. Bunner, whose "Short Sixes" and other tales survive as American classics. Harvey Leon Wilson succeeded Mr. Bunner. Among the contributors to the paper in its heyday were Brander Matthews, R. K. Munnick, Bill Nye, Eugene Field, John Kendrick Bangs and other gentlemen whose pens spelled popularity and bright humor.

Joseph Keppler, who was one of the founders and the principal cartoonist of Puck, left the impress of power as well as vivid colors on his every page. Gilliam's cartoon of Blaine as "The Tattooed Man," in 1884, remains unsurpassed in political satire for its biting force.

Puck had no real rival in its best days. Falling from its fine estate, it left no successor. America, despite its keen sense of fun and its plenitude of humorists, in word and drawing, seems strangely unable to place its humor in an enduring and separate periodical form—in form to match the English Punch or any of the great satiric papers of the continent.

LOCAL CONCERN TO MAKE VITAL WAR PRODUCT

Interest Behind Southern Ferro Alloys Company Organizes Allied Industry.
Another manufacturing plant to be added to the already large number in operation here is the Chattanooga Electro-Metals company, which has been organized by Paul Krusel and which will begin operations on Sept. 1. This concern will be incorporated for \$200,000 and will manufacture a high grade of silicon alloy, which formerly could not be produced profitably in anything but a blast furnace. The plant will produce an equivalent of Bessemer ferro-silicon in grades from 10 to 16 per cent.

The officers of the concern are: Paul J. Krusel, president and treasurer; N. Thayer Montague, first vice-president and secretary; G. L. Davidson, second vice-president and manager; Arthur Raymo, general superintendent; D. H. Cowan, assistant superintendent; R. L. Patterson, chemist; H. H. Russell, bridge electrician; N. W. West, brook assistant secretary.

The building, which will be constructed at Chestnut and Twenty-first streets, will be of steel frame and will have galvanneal roof and slabs. Two smaller buildings will house the transformers and automatic electrodes. The company will use mammoth carbon electrodes two feet in diameter and seven feet long. These electrodes cost \$150 each and one of them will be used each day. The new company will be the second largest user of electric power in and around Chattanooga, being second only to the ferro-alloys plant here.

A priority order has been granted on labor and material by the government and it is expected that the plant will be constructed in record time. All contracts have been secured by local concerns and the few things which had to be obtained from other places will be rushed here as soon as possible.

The output of the plant will be eighteen tons of ferro-silicon each day. The establishment of this plant here will be a valuable addition to the manufacturing industries here. Mr. Krusel stated this morning that the organization of the new concern had been completed. He is president of both concerns should the purchase of the American Lava company be effected. Mr. Krusel is also president of the Southern Ferro-Alloys company, of this city.

CHATTANOOGA BOYS TO GO TO TRAINING CAMP

A. B. Littleton, Young Lawyer, One of Those Accepted for Training at Camp Taylor.
The application of A. B. Littleton for admission to the Zachary Taylor training camp has been accepted and the young lawyer ordered to report immediately. The acceptance of Mr.

Littleton makes the seventh man accepted for this camp from Chattanooga. Mr. Littleton is the son of Mrs. M. B. Littleton and a nephew of Mayor Jesse M. Littleton. He is a brother of Carlyle Littleton and junior member of the firm of Littleton, Littleton & Littleton.

GERMAN DRIVE KICKED AND WENT WRONG WAY

They Started for Paris but Are Going in Opposite Direction, Says Tom Marler.

Tom Marler, a former Meigs county boy, writes to his grandfather, W. L. Cofer, at Georgetown, giving him an account of the recent German drive, which he says "kicked and went backwards." Tom and his comrades were in the thick of it, and were placed in a position to block the German drive to Paris.

How well they accomplished their purpose he tells his grandfather in the following letter:

"Of course, you have heard the good news. We have met the enemy and he's ours, all except those who ran away. And believe me, they can sprint some—can outrun a democratic candidate in Texas. I was in the big drive, but the thing kicked and went the wrong way. They started for Paris, but are now going toward Berlin. The boches had driven a wedge toward Paris, and things looked to be in a precarious condition. We were sent to the point of this wedge that threatened entrance to the French capital. Presumably Paris was their objective."

"I think we only intended to clog their road to Paris. We did, and more, too. We started a road to Berlin. I have been in the front line trenches many times, but this was the first time that Fritz ever tried to walk rough-shod through our lines. We were not seasoned veterans, and I don't know many times, but we were forced to go back—all that could get back. We knew something was going to drop, and I will not lie. I dreaded them. For four years they had ploughed their way through everything that stood in front of them, and I will not bluff; I wondered if they would plough through us. Right at once business picked up. A number of boches came down upon them. I looked at Old Glory as then at them. The old flag seemed to say to me 'steady, boys; I've never known defeat. Uphold the traditions of your country.' Every American boy must have felt the same soul, for there was not a waver. On the boches came. And all at once we fired into them. Believe me, we gave 'em hell. They never went to Paris, and they'll never go back to Berlin. They went where all bad Germans go. Not a one went back over that hill. We got them all."

"We are now behind the lines for a short rest. Have not received any mail in a month, nor have I wrote any letters. Too much war. Must finish the Germans first. Today we go back to the front. It is the most fun and excitement you ever saw. Beats a football game all to smash, and nearly as dangerous."

"When I started into the First battle a Salvation army man asked me how he must write to my mother. I said tell her I had an urgent business engagement and not to worry, for business is pretty brisk over here right now, and I may not have time to write for a long time."

"My next letter may be headed Berlin. When we get there the censor won't be so funny. 'We've got the Germans on the run. They won't last as long as some people think. We've got their numbers. If they persist in holding out till all Germans are killed, it may take longer, but if they know when they're whipped, it won't be so long. Then back to that dear America for us—the land where our loved ones are. Don't bother about us. We wouldn't miss this for all the soft snaps and joy-ridings of the idle rich.'"

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